

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing device for processing an image using image data generated by an image generating device, and image generation record information that is associated with the image data and that includes operation information for the image generating device at the time that the image data is generated, the image processing device comprising:

a judging section configured to execute a backlight decision as to whether or not to execute backlight adjustment processing, based on both the image generation record information and the image data, the judging section performing (i) a first judgment to decide whether or not the image generation record information negates necessity of the backlight adjustment processing, and (ii) a second judgment, in case the image generation record information does not negate the necessity of the backlight adjustment processing in the first judgment, to decide based on a pixel value histogram of the image data whether or not to execute the backlight adjustment processing, and the judging section calculating a degree of similarity between the pixel value histogram and a predetermined reference histogram representing a backlit image, and making the second judgment according to the degree of similarity; and

an image quality adjuster that, in case it is decided to execute the backlight adjustment processing, executes backlight adjustment processing to increase brightness value of at least some pixels in the image data.

Claims 2-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The image processing device according to claim 1, wherein

the pixel value histogram and the reference histogram each have a simplified format in which a range of pixel values is divided into a plurality of segments, and a representative pixel frequency value is established for each segment; and

the degree of similarity represents similarity of the representative pixel frequency value of each segment between the pixel value histogram and the reference histogram.

Claims 12-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method of processing an image using image data generated by an image generating device, and image generation record information that is associated with the image data and that includes operation information for the image generating device at the time that the image data is generated, the method comprising:

executing a backlight decision as to whether or not to execute backlight adjustment processing, based on both the image generation record information and the image data, the executing of the backlight decision including (i) performing a first judgment to decide whether or not the image generation record information negates necessity of the backlight adjustment processing; and (ii) performing a second judgment, in case the image generation record information does not negate the necessity of the backlight adjustment processing in the first judgment, to decide based on a pixel value histogram of the image data whether or not to execute the backlight adjustment processing, and the executing of the backlight decision further including calculating a degree of similarity between the pixel value histogram and a predetermined reference histogram representing a backlit image, and making the second judgment according to the degree of similarity; and

in case it is decided to execute the backlight adjustment processing, executing backlight adjustment processing to increase brightness value of at least some pixels in the image data.

Claims 16-24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 15, wherein

the pixel value histogram and the reference histogram each have a simplified format in which a range of pixel values is divided into a plurality of segments, and a representative pixel frequency value is established for each segment; and

the degree of similarity represents similarity of the representative pixel frequency value of each segment between the pixel value histogram and the reference histogram.

Claims 26-28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program, the computer program comprising:

a first program causing a computer to execute a backlight decision as to whether or not to execute backlight adjustment processing, based on both the image generation record information and the image data, the first program causing the computer to perform (i) a first judgment to decide whether or not the image generation record information negates necessity of the backlight adjustment processing, and (ii) a second judgment, in case the image generation record information does not negate the necessity of the backlight adjustment processing in the first judgment, to decide based on a pixel value histogram of the image data whether or not to execute the backlight adjustment processing, and the first program further causing the computer to calculate a degree of similarity between the pixel value histogram and a predetermined reference histogram representing a backlit image, and to make the second judgment according to the degree of similarity; and

a second program, in case it is decided to execute the backlight adjustment processing, causing the computer to execute backlight adjustment processing to increase brightness value of at least some pixels in the image data.